

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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INFO SECDEF WASHDC//ISA//

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0065

A

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJ: GOK MOBILIZATION/CONSCRIPTION PLANS

SUMMARY: CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF REVEALS GOK PLANNING TO IMPLEMENT CONSCRIPTION AND ESTABLISH RESERVE FORCE. REQUEST FOR BRIEFINGS ON RESERVE ORGANIZATION/MOBILIZATION BY US MILITARY MADE. END SUMMARY.

1. AT MEETING 29DEC75, CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF, MG SHAIKH MABARAK DISCUSSED GOK PLANS WITH DOD REP FOR IMPLEMENTING CONSCRIPTION, ESTABLISHMENT OF RESERVE FORCE AND RAPID RESPONSE MOBILIZATION.

2. IN LATE DECEMBER, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PASSED LAW FOR CONSCRIPTION (18 MONTHS ACTIVE DUTY PLUS EIGHT YEARS RESERVE SERVICE) REPLACING THE UNIMPLEMENTED INTERIM AMIRI DECREE OF A YEAR AGO. WHILE MOD HAS NOT YET ESTABLISHED FRAMEWORK TO IMPLEMENT, MG MUBARAK REVEALED THAT DEFENSE COUNCIL (HEADED BY CROWN PRINCE/PRIMIN) HAD ESTABLISHED A TWO-YEAR TIME FRAME FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION. CONSCRIPTION IS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE WHICH WILL BE PRIMARILY MILITARY, BUT DOES INCLUDE THE NATIONAL POLICE, BORDER
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PATROL, NATIONAL GUARD (AN INDEPENDENT HOME GUARD REPORTING

DIRECTLY TO PRIMIN), COAST GUARD, FIRE BRIGADE, ETC.

3. GOK INTENDS ESTABLISH A RESERVE FORCEWOIN A HIGH STATE OF READINESS OF ABOUT ONE DIVISION SIZE (EXACT COMPOSITION NOT SPECIFIED). WHEN ESTABLISHED, GOK WIL REDUCE SIZE OF REGULAR ARMY (CURRENTLY ABOUT 10,000) BY 25 PER CENT. IT IS NOT PLANNED TO HAVE RESERVE COMPONENTS FOR THE AIR FORCE, NAVY OR AIR DEFENSE FORCE AS TRAINING TIME FOR TECHNICIANS EXCEEDS CONSCRIPTION TIME AND GOK PLAN FOR ONE WEEK WAR WOULD NOT ALLOW FORMATION OF ADDITIONAL UNITS OF THIS NATURE IN TIME AVAILABLE.

4. GOK HAS STUDIED OPNE LITERATUE INFORMATION ON SWISS AND ISRAELI MOBILIZATION PLANS AND IS SENDING OFFICERS TO SRYRIA WITHIN A FEW DAYS FOR BRIEFINGS, ETC., ON SYRIAN PLAN. MG MUBARAK APPEARED QUITE KNOWLEDGEABLE ON BOTH SWISS AND ISRAELI SYSTEMS AND EXPLICITLY STATED THAT ISRAELI SYSTEM APPEARED BEST SUITED FOR GOK NEEDS.

5. GENERAL NATURE OFPLAN IS TO FORM AND TRAIN RESERVE UNITS FROM PERSONNEL LIVING IN ONW AREA WITH LOCAL ARMORIES, ETC., WITH ALL EQUIPMENT MAINTAINED IN STATE OF READINESS. UNIT COMMANDERS SKELETON STAFF AND MAINTENANCE FORCE WOULD BE REGULAR ARMY PERSONNEL. UPON DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY, PERSONNEL WOULD PROCEED TO ASSIGNED ARMORY (WITHIN 1-3 KM OF RESIDENCE), FORM UP AND MOVE OUT TO PREASSIGNED POSITIONS.

6. THE NATIONAL GUARD WILL BE THE HOME GUARD/REAR AREA SECURITY FORCE AND WILL BE ESSENTIALLY NON-MOBILE WITH THE PRIMARY MISSION OF PROVIDING SECURITY FOR VITAL INSTALLATIONS SUVH AS THE WATER DISTILLATION PLANTS. (FYI: OUR TOTAL INFO ON NATIONAL GUARD IS THAT PRESIDENT (COMMANDER) IS SHAIKH SALEM AL ALI AND THAT STRENGTH IS ABOUT 5,000. NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE LOCALLY AS TO ORGANIZATION, OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS, ETC. END DYI).

7. THE NATIONAL POLICE WILL MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER AND PROVIDE TRAFFIC ONTROL TO CLEAR ROUTE OF EGRESS FOR RESERVE UNITS PROCEEDING TO DESIGNATED POSITIONS.
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8. A REAR AREA SECURITY COMMAND WILL BE FORMED TO CONTRL/ COORDINATE NATIONAL POLCE, NATIONAL GARD, FIRE BRIGADE, MEDICAL AND OHTER EMERGENCY UNITS AND PARAMILITARY FORCES (SEVERAL SMALL SPECIAL SECURITY UNITS).

9. CONSCRIPTION/TRAINING IS AS FOLLOWS:

EDUCATION LEVEL	TOTAL	BASIC	UNIT	ANNUAL ACTIVE
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	ACTIVE	TRNG	SPEC	DUTY
LESS THAN 12 (SOLDIERS)	18MOS	9 MOS	9MOS	4 WKS
12-16 (NSO)	12MOS	6MOS	6 MOS	4 WKS
UNIV GRAD (OFF)	9 MOS	3 MOS	3 MOS	2WKS

10. MG MUBARAK REQUESTED INFORMATION ON ORGANIZATION AND MOBILIZATION PLANNING OF US ARMED FORCES. AFTER DISCUSSION OF RELATIVE SIZE OF GOK MILITARY VIS-A-VIS US MILITARY, MG MUBARAK MADE REQUEST THAT THREE OF FOUR KUWAITI OFFICERS RECEIVE BRIEFING, ETC., (IN CONUS) ON MARINE RESERVE ORGANIZATION AND CALL UP PROCEDURES. TIME FRAM DESIRED - MAY / JUNE 76.

1. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS ONE MORE CLEAR INDICATION THAT GOK DETERMINED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THEIR MILITARY MODERNIZATION/IMPROVEMNT PROGRAM. THEY ARE CLEARLY LOOKING FOR QUALITY NOT QUANTITY WITH PLANS TO KEEP SIZE OF STANDING ARMY SMALL. IT IS EMBASSY OPINION THAT GOK WILL MOVE AHEAD ON ITS TIME SCEDULE, PREFERABLY WITH USG HELP, BUT WITHOUT IT IF USG DOES NOT PROVIDE.

12. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ADVISE ON WILLINGNESS USG TO PROVIDE BRIEFINGS REQUESTED.
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